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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

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FACT SHEET

Rule of Law Program

The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Rule of Law program, promotes a more functional and effective justice system for BiH individuals, organizations and businesses. Rule of law provides the foundation for a democratic political system and a market economy, limits excessive government power, and protects the rights of all BiH citizens.

USAID's Rule of Law program supports U.S. Government priorities to 1) improve the justice sector's ability to investigate and prosecute crimes, develop legislation and impartially and expeditiously adjudicate cases, and 2) strengthen civil, and criminal law in BiH through assistance that will help improve access to justice for citizens, businesses and organizations. Overall, the U.S. Government has provided over \$1 billion to support the development of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

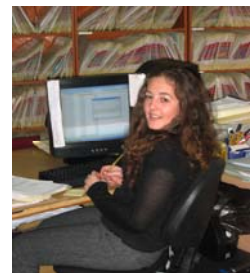
The Justice Sector Development Project (JSDP):
(March 2004 – March 2009)

Budget: \$14.5 million

Implementer: East West Management Institute

The Justice Sector Development Project (JSDP) is a partnership initiative with the BiH High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC), the BiH Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the courts. JSDP aims to strengthen the rule of law in the following four ways:

1. *Judicial Independence and Accountability.* USAID is working with HJPC, the MOJ, judges and court staff to strengthen the independence and accountability of the judiciary and to strengthen the dialogue among the three branches of government in order to respect fully each other's constitutional roles and to achieve together a justice system meeting EU standards.
2. *Strengthening the HJPC.* USAID helps HJPC improve the professional quality of the judiciary and establish its independence from political influences. With support from USAID, HJPC has set new standards for judicial appointments, performance and discipline of judges, and codes of ethics for judges and prosecutors. HJPC benefits from additional assistance in the areas of strategic planning, senior management training and public relations.
3. *Court Administration Reform.* BiH courts are striving to improve their performance to meet citizens' needs and standards for EU accession. Through the Model Courts Initiative, USAID has helped courts at all levels to implement a court improvement plan. Courts are introducing computerized case management systems, remodeling courthouses to make them more accessible to the public, using audio equipment to record hearings and taking steps to reduce serious case backlogs.
4. *Strengthening the State MOJ.* The MOJ, a state-level ministry created in 2003, receives



**New filing systems
reduce court backlogs**

technical assistance from USAID to improve its work in justice sector strategic planning and policy-making, budgeting, donor coordination and European integration. Training in public finance, human resources and project preparation is helping the MOJ become an effective ministry. USAID also assists the MOJ to develop procedures for public consultation in the drafting of new legislation and harmonization of BiH legislation with international conventions on anti-corruption and organized crime, including a central data base on serious criminal offences.